NEWFANGLES

Number 9, April 1968. This thing is supposed to be bimonthly but... Send 10¢ per copy to Don & Maggie Thompson, [illegible] Mentor, Ohio 44060 (bargain rate: $1 for 10 issues, gang!). Copies available for usable news items or [illegible] comics.

Gold Key To Raise Its Prices

Gold Key comics will soon cost 15 cents each. When Dell raised its prices to 15¢, a few years ago, the result was the virtual death of Dell, because other publishers [illegible] did not follow Dell's lead. Price increases for comics are necessary if comics are to survive — dealers are reluctant to handle them if a) they get very little money and b) have to make change in pennies, which are in short supply due to state sales taxes. At 15¢, they a) make another penny or so per copy and b) cut down on the pennies handed out in change. Also, it is easier for most clerks to add and multiply by fives than by twelves. It remains to be witnessed whether the other comics companies will support GK's move or mark their mags "still only 12¢" and still GK.

HOW TO squash A WILD RUMOR

A West Coast rumor was passed on to us: Stan Lee has quit Marvel, joined Charlton and is trying to lure Ditko away from DC. Actually, said the rumor, he was fired for putting all his relatives on the payroll and paying them instead of non-relatives when the budget was short. We called a New York source (fellow name of Stan Lee) and reached him at Marvel (which blew the whole rumor right there). He was stunkered at the tale, snorted at the Charlton part, grunted noncommittally on Ditko and said he has one (count him, one) relative on his staff: brother Larry Lieber, who gets paid when others do. Budget isn't short, either, says Lee. He expressed appreciation at being given a chance to squelch a reeking rumor, said he still smarts over a letter in a DC mag some time back which said "everybody knows Lee doesn't write his stories." "I'm very careful to give credit to anyone who even helps on the writing," Lee said. "If my name is listed as writer, I wrote the story."

As you may know, Flo Steinberg has left Marvel, pleading overwork. I'm sure she will be missed by the very fans (us included) who overworked her into leaving.

Sackcloth and Ashes Dept

We made a few mistakes last time. Bob Crumb (whose cartoons Viking is bringing out a collection of) was a comics fan, not a science fiction fan. We neglected to credit John Benson (our best news source) with doing the Gil Kane interview in the upcoming (Real Soon Now) Alter Ego. (Incidentally, Benson says Kane's Savage magazine has been printed, so watch for it. Another comic magazine, The Spectacular Spider-Man #1, is on sale — 62 pages of comics, about equal to three months of Spidey comics; quality is about the same also, with little that ought to bug the Comics Code even if Marvel had to pay protection money on this item.) Al Plastino is not doing Green Lantern, he's doing the Batman newspaper strip. Jack Sparling is doing GL. The late Rocco Mastroserio inked "Rescue of the Morning Maid" in the Jan. 68 issue of Creepy, all right, but it was penciled by Pat Boyette, whom we failed to mention. Mastroserio, incidentally, did his first DC work (inking Sparling) just before he died. Correction credits: John Benson, Mark Bernfeld, Richard Kyle. Our apologies for the errors.

MR WHO WAITS: On 2 March 1968, we ordered a membership in the Creepy Fan Club. With no intervening prodding from us, it arrived 20 March 1968. On 14 November 1967, we ordered a revised Merry Marvel Marching Society kit. Again with no prodding, it came on 1 April 1968.

COA: Bruce Anderson, Normal Ill. 61761 -- until end of May.

Your subscription expires with issue #____. Circulation now 20 and we have an ad upcoming in Fantasy Collector; we won't fold for a while, but we could use subscribers. We have faint hopes of breaking even (the mail to Lee put us in the red good this time). Back issues are available at 10¢ each. Listing of Dell and other special series comic @1 from us. List of exorbitantly-priced comics for sale available on request.

DISNEY DATA: Mickey Mouse is cover-featured on the April issue of American Heritage, which contains a long selection from Richard Schickel's The Disney Version (Simon and Schuster, $6.95), an unauthorized study of the Disney Empire. /// The one Yesterday (@1 from Paul R. Leiffer, Tonawanda, NY 14150) has an excellent long piece on Mickey Mouse strips. /// Several people have told us that Dick Blackburn is doing an article on Duck artist Carl Barks for Cheetah, the magazine that printed the much foldout of Mama Cass. The now-being-stencilled Comic Art #7 will feature an article on, interview with and brief autobiography of Carl Barks, with a photo and, hopefully, illustrations by him (50¢ from the editors of Newsprint).

NOSTALGIA HOUSE definitely plans Krazy Kat and Prince Valiant books to follow the $11.95 Flash Gordon volume. We saw PV and bought it on the spot -- if we had the money, I fear we would have grabbed it and run -- a beautiful book. If you haven't seen it, I assure (I being Don) you it is far more beautiful than you imagine.

FANS TURNED PRO: Joseph Wehrle (Fawn, the Dark Eyed) has illustrated a story in the current Worlds of If, as has the omnipresent Jeff Jones. And Wally Wood's assistant, Wayne Howard, made the dean's list at Wesleyan.

RUSS MANNING has quit Gold Key, his time consumed by the Tarzan strip. Doug Wildey will do Tarzan (Gold Key has dropped the TV Tarzan, as has TV) after Russ' adaptation of Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle. Dan Spiegel has done one Magnus, after which Paul Norris takes over. Mike Royer, Russ' assistant, converted a Giolitti TV Tarzan into a Kubert by redrawing the main figure.

TV CARTOONS: According to TV Guide (which illustrated its article with a Wood drawing), there is a big furore over superhero TV cartoons. I understand the Superman-Aquaman Hour of Adventure is being scuttled, but Jeremy Harry says Filmation is set to begin as more DC cartoons, including Superman and (now the live-action show is gone) Batman and whatsisname the Boy Wonder.

"DAVE KALER is feeling much improved. His vacation from fame is, literally, just what the doctor ordered," says Mark Hanerfeld.

YES, VIRGINIA, there is a King Pack containing Flash Gordon #11, apparently sent only to subscribers. At least, no one has reported seeing it on the stands.

JAY LYNCH, onetime star of shortlived satire fandom is publishing a raunchy satirical magazine, Chicago Mirror (#1 for 4 issues from Chicago, Ill.).

THE NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKER, 53 E. 77 St., NYC 10021 (30¢ in NY, probably 35¢ by mail), is a Sunday paper which started 25 February 1968 and prints no news, just feature columns, editorials, articles, games -- and comics. Tabloid size, each strip complete: Alley Oop, Archie, Bugs Bunny, Captain and the Kids, Captain Easy, Carnival, Eb and Flo, Eek & Meek, Emmy Lou, Flash Gordon, Flintstones, Freckles & His Friends, Hector, Henry, Hi & Lois, Joe Palooka, Little Iodine, Mickey Finn, Moose, Off the Record, Our Boarding House, Out Our Way, Prince Valiant, Short Ribs, Smuffy Smith, Steve Canyon, Strange as It Seems, Tarzan, Tiger, Winthrop, and Yogi Bear. (News credit: Bill Spicer)

GATEWAY CON 3, June 28-30. $3.50 to Bob Schoenfeld, St. Louis, Mo. 63114. Roy Thomas is guest of honor. Movies: Flash Gordon, Metropolis, Dracula (Mexican comic book here). Details from Bob.

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